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PROBLEMS IN BUSINESS LAW, by Justin H. Moore and Charles A. Houston. (New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1920, pp. 272.)

In this volume there is a departure from the usual nature of books on the subject of business law. It is a case book on commercial law, the first that has appeared. The cases, however, are given in the form of brief problems—unanswered. The purpose is to develop in the student the use of reason, the life of the law. The student thus, in reaching the solution of a problem, must exercise his logical faculties. His results may be verified in the class room or by a resort to the reports.

The problems are well chosen cases, boiled down to an irreducible minimum. Many of the cases involve novel and unusual facts so as to gain a hold on the imagination of the thinker. In the problems the usual "A", "B", and "C" are banished and in their places we find the real names of the parties—such as Methfessel or Pfeffenheimer. The advantages of this are apparent. After following the fortunes of "A", "B", and "C" through algebraic problems and illustrations of all sorts, the student's mind ceases to visualize them as living people. They are mere inanimate puppets, moved by strings in the teacher's hands. The use of actual names, however, serves to awaken human interest. The student may feel sympathy for the wrongs of Smith and Jones, while the misfortunes of "A" are mere imaginary trifles, which pass unnoticed. And from this sympathy thought will be born.

In the selection of cases the entire emphasis has been laid on practical substantive law. All matters of procedure have been omitted as well as mere legal quibbles and theories. The aim is to assist business men and students of business in gaining the fundamental conceptions of business law. In that it stimulates thought and illustrates and thereby clinches in the student's mind legal principles, this purpose is well accomplished. The book should serve to meet a real need in the teaching of commercial law.